

Crop Insurance News

Apples and Peaches Now Insurable – November Deadline for Both

Apple crop insurance has been a popular means of protecting New Hampshire growers from crop losses due to natural perils and adverse weather conditions such as hail, wind, frost and drought. In recent years, well over half of the 2,100 eligible orchard acres planted in the State have been insured under the Multiple Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) program. The apple MPCI policy allows growers to insure from 50 to 75 percent of their average yields. The 2006 price election for fresh apples is \$11.55 per bushel. Production which falls below the guaranteed amount (average yield times coverage level) is multiplied by \$11.55 per bushel to determine the indemnity payment. Under the apple policy, additional protection is available for loss of quality to apples grown for fresh fruit that do not grade U.S. Fancy or better.

New for 2006, crop insurance coverage is available for peaches grown in Rockingham County. Like the apple policy, peach crop insurance provides coverage against production losses due to damage caused by natural perils and adverse weather conditions. The amount of coverage is determined from the grower's actual yields and the protection level selected (50 to 75%). The 2006 price election for fresh peaches is \$28.50 per bushel. Peaches in other New Hampshire counties may be insured under a written agreement provided specific criteria are met.

Apple and peach growers should consider making crop insurance a part of their overall risk management plan to help protect their operations from financial loss. The sales closing date for peach and apple growers to obtain crop insurance on next year's crop is November 20, 2005. Current apple policyholders likewise have until November 20 to make any changes to their existing contracts.

Growers are encouraged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for more detailed information and premium quotes. For a list of crop insurance agents in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the following Risk Management Agency web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>